



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Highway  
Administration**

400 Seventh St., S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

September 12, 2005

Refer to: HOFM-1

Mr. Cletus R. Willems  
Vice President and General Counsel  
JHT Holdings, Inc.  
4320 39<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Kenosha, WI 53144

Dear Mr. Willems:

Thank you for your letter of August 26 to Acting Administrator Capka on behalf of the Saddlemount Trucking Industry in which you asked for clarification of a new provision in SAFETEA-LU legislation (Public Law No.109-59). Your letter has been forwarded to this office for response. Section 4141 of the new law allows drive-away saddlemount combinations to operate at a length of 97 feet. You asked that we alert our State transportation and enforcement agencies of this enactment of a greater allowance, and also requested written confirmation that the motor carrier industry may now legally operate saddlemount combinations at the length specified in Section 4141.

Please know that we have already alerted our Division Offices of the new provision's enactment and will be clarifying, as you requested, the point that the 97-foot length provision is now in effect on the National Network of highways. The Federal Highway Administration is working to update its regulations in 23 CFR 658 to reflect the changes made by SAFETEA-LU. Please be assured, however, that while this work is being completed SAFETEA-LU is in effect, and individuals should refer to the provisions therein as current law.

I hope this information is helpful to you and your clients. Thank you again for your inquiry.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey F. Paniati  
Associate Administrator for Operations

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